

## AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert before paragraph [0001] the following claim for benefit:

--This application is a continuation of 09/788,299, filed on February 16, 2001, issued as 6,910,609 on June 28, 2005 which is a continuation-in-part of 09/336,887, filed on June 18, 1999, issued as 6,213,539 on April 10, 2001.—

Please replace paragraph [0023] with:

[0023] FIG. 23 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the present invention; FIG. 24 is a rear view of the embodiment of ~~the present invention~~ FIG 23; FIG. 25 is a side view of the spine member embodiment of the present invention; FIG. 26 is a side view of the spine member embodiment of FIG. 25 with bicycle mounts attached; FIG. 27 is a rear view of the spine member embodiment of FIG. 26 with a bicycle attached; FIG. 28 is a top view of the spine member of FIG. 26 with bicycles and cargo platforms attached; FIG. 29 is a perspective view of the spine member embodiment of FIG. 28.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with:

[0043] The slide brackets 968, 974 and the slide and swing mechanisms are designed to allow the slide rods and swing rods to easily disengaged. This is done by using spring clips, set screws or other attachment devices. Thus, the trailer can be easily assembled for use and disassembled when not in use.

Please replace paragraph [0046] with:

[0046] In a preferred embodiment, the internal frame 1220 is formed from open-slotted channel conduit, such as the slotted conduit provided by Unistrut Corporation. This slotted conduit is used for industrial and commercial applications to provide construction framework as well as electrical cable routing. The present invention provides a unique application for this material. As shown in ~~FIG. 13~~ Figures 13 and 14, the internal frame 1220 utilizes this slotted channel conduit bent into a substantially oval shape and mounted on the floor of the compartment directly to the trailer chassis. Bicycle mounting hardware 1250 is adjustably mounted to the internal frame by

spring nuts 1252, shown in FIG. 14 15. The spring nuts 1252 are able to slide within the channel 1254 of the internal frame 1220 to the desired spot in the compartment. Thus, the equipment mounting hardware can be quickly interchanged and moved as desired.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with:

[0048] Fifth Embodiment An alternative embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in FIG. 16 17. Trailer 1600 includes trailer chassis 1610 and compartment 1620, similar to the trailer chassis and compartments described above. Soft top 1630 is utilized instead of the members of the above-described embodiments. Soft top 1630 is formed of a durable material such as canvas, nylon or other flexible cover material. The soft top 1630 is supported on the compartment by internal frame 1640. Internal frame 1640 includes aluminum rod 1642 and aluminum rod 1644 extending through pockets 1646, 1648, respectively, formed on soft top 1630. The ends of aluminum rods 1642, 1644 fit into pockets 1650, 1652, 1654, 1656 in the edges of the soft top 1630. Strap 1660 is mounted within pocket 1662 on the perimeter of the soft top. Strap 1660 is preferably formed of a durable elastic material. Tensioning device 1664 secures the ends of strap 1660. Soft top 1630 is placed on the compartment 1620 so that strap 1660 extends beneath the upper rim of the compartment. The strap is tightened by the tensioning device 1664 until the soft top 1630 is taut over the compartment. Other tensioning devices can be used, such as snaps, as well. The support rods 1642, 1644 provide support for the soft top as well keeping the soft top raised from accumulating water, snow or other debris.

Please replace paragraph [0050] with:

[0050] Sixth Embodiment Another embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in FIG. 17 18. External frame 1710 is mounted to trailer 1700. External frame 1710 includes front frame section 1720, rear frame section 1730, cross frame members 1732, 1734 extending between the front frame section 1720 and rear frame section 1730, and support members 1736, 1738 securing front frame section 1720 to the tongue of the trailer.

Please replace paragraph [0054] with:

[0054] Seventh Embodiment Another embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in FIGS. 18-21 19 - 22. The equipment transportation system of this embodiment mounts directly

onto the trailer hitch receiver of a vehicle. Compartment 1800 includes a lower compartment 1810 mounted on tubular member 1820. Support brackets 1822, 1824 provides support for the base of lower compartment 1810 on tubular member 1820. Platform 1826 may also be used to support lower compartment 1810 as well. Recessed tail-lights 1830, 1832 are mounted on the exterior of lower compartment 1810.